



# THE HOLLOW LOG

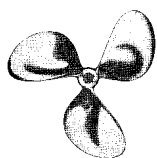
## The Classic Australian Wooden Power Boat Association Inc.

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*Miss Lyndy and John at Narrandera*

## The road less travelled to Narrandera

Well another year passes into history and we're halfway through January and there's already plenty of Wooden Powerboat action on the calendar for 2016 with events planned or being planned for Nagambie, Maribyrnong, Yarra-wonga, Paynesville and the Aquafest in the next few months and of course Narrandera later in the year.

The end of 2015 was also a busy time for club members with Narrandera closely followed by the Mulwala Rod Run and then the Geelong Revival Motoring Festival. Thanks to Greg for stories on these events, and thanks also to Bob Carter, Graham and Michelle Stevens for letting me use the photos they took at Narrandera. Frank Wicks has kindly given us his account of the unfortunate sinking of *The Jet* at Goolwa and his pretty swift repair to have her back in the water at Narrandera.

This year we decided to break up the long drive from Adelaide to Narrandera with an overnight stop in Balranald. Mind you Balranald is still 550km, so a fair drive and I must admit it felt good to be able stop for the night knowing that there was only the relatively short 300km drive to Narrandera the next morning. A couple of days

before we left I'd given Balranald local member Andy Griffiths the heads up that we would be stopping over and once we'd checked in I gave Andy a call. In typical friendly Andy style he said "I'm just driving by, be there in 2 minutes", and he was. Andy asked if I'd like to see their local skiing spot, so Andy and I took off for the lake. Yanga Lake is a few km's east of Balranald, on a dirt road off the main highway. Once we made it the end of the dirt road the vastness of this stretch of water became apparent and with a boat ramp, seats and shelter near the bank it's easy to see why this has been a very popular spot with locals over the years. Perhaps a future National get together location? The only problem being the amount of water itself, which like many areas in the southern mainland states can vary tremendously in fairly short time. On our way back I mentioned we were going to the Club for dinner and Andy decided he and his family would join us so our group of 7 grew to 10. Turns out we weren't the only ones stopping over at Balranald, as when we sat down in the Club, the Stevens family pulled up too and 10 became 14. An enjoyable pre Narrandera gathering with good people, and an early chance to talk boats too!



## Geelong Revival

We received an invite a few months back to attend the Geelong Revival Motoring Festival in late November. The Festival is basically a quarter mile sprint race that was first run in the Geelong region in 1956 and has been run off and on since. It was last revived in 2012. The weekend event, held along the Geelong City's picturesque waterfront, includes the sprint races, a classic car show, classic caravans, great period fashions and vintage aircraft flypasts. After this year's event, I reckon classic boats will now also be a part of the fixture.



We had eight boats on show, including *Al-Falfa*, *Electric Girl*, *Nightmare*, *Pagan*, *Rascala*, *Resurrected*, *Scrubcat* and *Stormy*.



## Greg Carr

Most boats arrived on the Friday afternoon to set up. We probably could have had a better layout for display, but such is the nature of these shows that late comers with large set ups, namely, a 32' grand prix hydro and enormous tow vehicle, cause best laid plans go by the by. We'll know better next time. With reduced exposure to one pathway, we erected our marque and attached our CAWPBA banner to it, advertising where we were. It seemed to work well enough as we had a steady stream of interested people walking past the boats all weekend.

The weather was a little marginal at times, but gladly, the rain held off.



Many people were genuinely interested, having plenty of stories to tell as well as other good knowledge of the old boats and power boat racing back in the day. Some boats were recognised and well remembered from their racing days, others from their more mundane lives as ski boats.

One boat that really did receive a lot of attention was *Pagan*. Owner Ray Russell was kept busy all weekend answering many questions from the public.



All in all, an enjoyable and successful weekend and we even managed to sell a couple of club caps and a few calendars thanks to the efforts of Donna Crawford, a natural, albeit a bit pushy, salesperson. Thanks Donna!

Also, many thanks to those who brought a boat along and then gave up a weekend day or even two to be there.



## Lake Mulwala Rod Run

The CAWPBA displayed boats again this year at the Lake Mulwala Rod Run at Yarrawonga, held on the weekend following Narandera.

We had eight boats on show this year with the boats again being well received by the public. We had *Bullitt*, *Eskimo*, *Impala*, *Miss Lyndy*, *Nightmare*, *Old Flame*, *Pagan* and *Stormy* on display.



The weather was warm enough but unfortunately, the persistent stiff breeze prevented us putting up the banner and displaying information boards, etc. It also put off any thoughts of putting boats in the water, with plenty of those Lake Mulwala white caps out there just waiting to bash up a boat. We even struggled to get enough heat into the BBQ

until some drastic measures to deflect the wind were taken.

John Sullivan certainly got the crowd excited when he fired up his Lewis skiff *Miss Lyndy*, for them. It was interesting to watch the crowd as they all hovered around close to the boat but then quickly took giant steps back once the 327 Chev lit up and crackled when given a blip on the throttle. It certainly created a couple of "bloody hell!" moments amongst the crowd.

A BBQ lunch was put on once we got wind issues with the barbie sorted out.

It was good to see many of the hot rod boys come and park their cars close to where we displayed and come over for a look. It was also good for us to get a bit of look at their really nice classic sheet metal.

The public were also treated to more woodies with the Seacraft Syndicate Boat Owners Club also having a few boats on show.

Many thanks to those who brought a boat along for the day. Many thanks, too, to John Sullivan, for organising and liaising to make this day happen for us.



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## Narrandera 2015

Friday we cruised steadily into a warm and humid Narrandera. After the usual check in and unpacking I decided to put *Jayme II* for a bit. I reckon the drive across in pretty hot weather must have dried out the hull a fair bit because when I launched her it was like she hadn't seen water for years, when I'd actually run her at Goolwa the weekend before. Others also enjoyed the good water with *The Jet* and *Zarak* doing some laps and *Alfalfa* soaking like *Jayme II*. After seeing *The Jet* incident at Goolwa earlier in the year it was great to watch Frank out on the lake again. The early evening gave us a taste of what was to come with a short and heavy down pour, so short that some who had ventured into town for dinner wondered why everything was so wet when they came outside.



Any shelter in a storm

This year the committee decided to place some buoys in the lake and create different speed zones out from the bank and placed a turn buoy further up the lake from where we'd traditionally turned. This seemed to work very well, reducing the wake for the boats at the bank and making it easier to launch, retrieve and generally manoeuvre near the bank.



The morning of Saturday started off clear but by the time most got organised the rain had come in and stayed around until lunch, with the rain gone the wind persisted. As usual the weather didn't stop people getting boats on the water, just made the driving a little less pleasurable. Bob was out in *The Spook* early and did quite a few quick solo laps. Alan & Paul spent plenty of time in *Screamin Eagle III*, making up for last year's engine issues. Stuart used the choppy conditions to give him some more air time in *Old Flame*! Colin took *Miss Dee* out for a couple of minutes but lack of water flow through the engine forced him back in to investigate the problem.

Others to hit water were *Vintage Red*, *Nightmare*, *Willywood*, *Leanne*, *Rush*, *HiFi*, *Splinter*, *Turbo Fire*, *Electric Girl*, *Swiftwood*, *Wooden Worry*, *Pace Set'r*, *Alfalfa* and *Stormy*.



The AGM kicked off Sunday with some discussion about the location of future National get togethers, this will be raised in future on the Bulletin Board. *Miss Lyndy* made her Narrandera debut and after one short run John went out again and pushed her along a bit faster, John's time converting the injection to run 98 seems very well spent. *Bullitt*, *The Jet*, *Steinway*, *Jayme II* and *Puff* joined the 18 boats from Saturday to enjoy some time on the lake over the course of the day. Sunday was also a grey day with moments of sunlight but in the late afternoon the clouds grew very dark and stormy looking. Most opted to retrieve their boats, I made it back to the cabin just before the skies opened up dropped a huge amount of rain. Unfortunately the buoys still had to be retrieved, well done to those that braved the conditions while the rest of us were finding shelter.



Despite the weather it was another great gathering of people and boats, only another 10 months to go to the next one!





## The Jet

As you would have read in the July Hollow Log, “The Jet” gave me that sinking feeling at the Goolwa Aquafest in April 2015. On the Sunday, after having a good run earlier I decided to go for another run. Whilst on that run in very rough water and turning to return to the clubhouse and ramp it appears that the prop hit something. Whatever I hit actually broke a piece off the prop and this caused the boat to spin sideways crashing into a wave. The port side of the hull caved in and this opened up the joint at the transom, splitting the frame. The engine was still running and I tried to head back to the ramp but as the joint had opened up the steering was jammed. I was forced to just turn it off and wait for the safety boat to tow me back, in the end only the bow was visible held up by the flotation, luckily it didn't completely submerge.



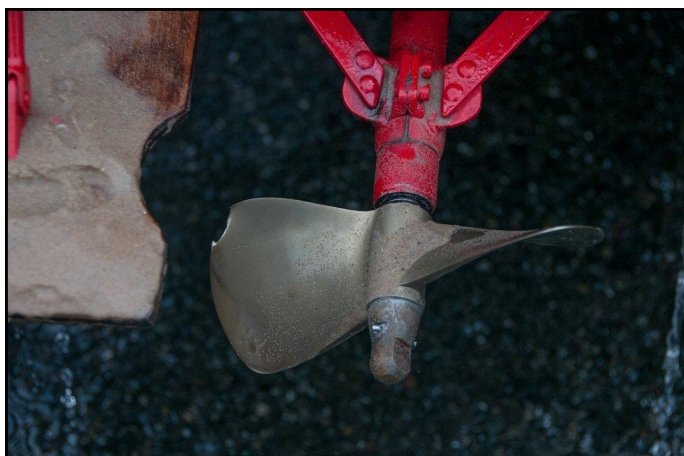
by Frank Wicks

With lots of help we got the boat back on the trailer. The best part of being involved in a hobby such as this is that once back in the car park I received lots of advice on how to repair the damage. This advice was invaluable to me on how to repair the hull and flush the motor. Anthony Oates who had been a previous owner of The Jet along with others organised a sump pump and 20 litres of diesel. We then were able to go to Dig Traeger's Earthmoving Depot where we pumped the water and oil out, poured diesel into the motor and splashed it around by turning the motor over. We then repeated this procedure about four times and then were able to start it up.

The next day, back at my mate's place in Adelaide we pumped it out and filled it with flushing oil and ran the motor for a while to warm it up. Then gave it a bit of a tune up and replaced with oil and ran it again. This all saved having to strip the motor down completely and it was running as its normal self again (of course a bit cantankerous at times, as we all know!!).



After returning home from Adelaide the next week it was now time to tackle the repair of the hull. All the advice was not to replace the side of the boat that was caved in (too hard to match the old timber) but to straighten it out and glue another sheet of ply on the inside. I had to strip everything out of the hull as there was not enough access to the damage. Remove the transom which wasn't all that hard as the old animal glue had mostly let go but it had 70 screws holding it. Once the transom was out I had to install some temporary stays to hold the shape, then make two long G clamps to clamp boards either side of the affected area. I then slowly clamped it up and left it





## The Jet

clamped whilst we were overseas in June/July for 5 weeks. On our return the clamps were removed and thankfully the hull remained straight. A new piece of frame was installed and a piece of ply was glued and clamped into position on the inside and left to harden. The new transom was cut and drilled and installed. The last piece to repair was to shape a new piece of gunwale as part was lost in the accident. Anyone that has looked closely at The Jet would know that it was built very light weight and as such has no internal frame where the deck meets the top of the hull. Only the gunwale holds that together and was only nailed. I made the extra ply high enough to screw the gunwale on from the inside and nailed the deck back down



Narrandera weekend, no chance to put it in the water before then. On our arrival there on the Friday afternoon I was keen to give it a run. Thankfully it ran well and was so relieved after months of work to have it back together and running well. Unfortunately the rest of the weekend was not really conducive to running it, although I managed a short run on the Sunday even though it was a bit rough.

My thanks to everyone that helped me at Goolwa after the sinking and I am hoping to get to Goolwa again in 2016.



The engine, steering and fittings for the prop shaft (the prop was repaired by Steve Moritz from Adelaide) were all installed. All was ready for the big day to see how the engine was going to run, after a tune up all was well. Now just a few weeks to go until the annual



*The Jet, flying again at Narrandera*



## Narrandera: the Monday after the Sunday before. Greg Carr

Talk about a change in the weather.

After a rough finish to our weekend on Sunday afternoon with a monster thunderstorm which included torrential rain, Monday dawned bright and clear. The day looked promising for the few of us who decided to stay on a little longer.

After seeing off those heading home, the lucky few headed down to the lake, to be greeted by calm water under a warm and sunny sky.

Boats in the water were Swiftwood, Electric Girl, Impala, Nightmare, Steinway, Stormy, Turbo Fire and Willywood. Torque's Cheap remained a trailer queen due to some engine "difficulties", as did Old Flame, which had driver "difficulties", with Stuart suffering some back problems (not surprising after the workout it got over the weekend).

It was first time in the water for over 10 years for John Sullivan's Impala. There was some discussion about whether the boat was a Lewis, as claimed by the Lewis badge it proudly wears. A few of us agreed it did not look like a typical Lewis, but more like a Leesom and Walker hull, such as Torque's Cheap. When the boats were parked side by side a bit later, they really did not look much like each other at all. John is adamant, from the history known, the boat is a Lewis, so the case rests. Regardless, the boat was great on the water, with its Holden grey purring away nicely.

We hadn't seen Willywood, Mark Steven's Seacraft 140, at Narrandera for a few years. The boat sported a new livery and a fresh Holden 6 and performed faultlessly all weekend.



We had the lake to ourselves and spent a very pleasant day at the water's edge.

We finished the day off with dinner at the "Bidgee" in town. I think we stressed out the cook on duty when about 20 of us we walked in to what would normally be a quiet night for the pub. She coped well, with the bar staff even helping out in the kitchen at one stage.

Well, that's that. Yet another great Narrandera event passes into the annals of CAWPBA history.

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## President's Pronouncements:

*Hello all,*

*I would like to wish all a belated Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. The end of 2015 was filled with many events including a great AGM at Narranderra.*

*The events still keep popping up and as they do will be posted on the Bulletin Board, it was great to see so many invites to share our passion with the public at various displays last year and I'm sure we will be there again judging from the crowd responses.*

*Hoping to see a lot of action pics from wooden boats out there enjoying the summer, and the work done during the off season.*

*If you know of any events coming up that you think members might like to participate in put it out there. If you think that an event might like our involvement as a group, please tell them to contact us.*

*Take your time & travel safe*

*Alan.*

## Around the Traps

### General:

- Bondwood boats seem to be popping up for sale all over the place at the moment, even on the side of the road here in SA.

### Victoria

- The Lewis Skiff, *Assassin Too* is very close to being finished with just the injection to be sorted.
- Fresh from her maiden run at Narranderra, *Miss Lyndy* is having some planks looked at for replacement.

### NSW

- Andy has given *Classique* to Jon to repair the hull, and by all reports it's progressing very rapidly.
- Rhonda Babe II* has just hit the water after her restoration by Dave & Bob. By reports all went pretty well with only a few issues to be sorted before the accelerator can be pushed a bit further.

### SA

- Rascala* has crossed the border and new owner Graham Stevens has already had her out for some laps at Goolwa.

## 2014/2015 Committee Members

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## Coming Events

### February 2016

- Maribyrnong River Cruise . February 7th.
- Goolwa Aquatic Club Powerboat picnic. February 20th.

### March 2016

- Paynesville Classic Boat Rally. March 5th & 6th
- Yarrawonga – Bundalong cruise. To be confirmed.

### April 2016

- Goolwa Aquatic Club - Aquafest. 9th & 10th. Boats of all types ranging from vintage Skiffs, Hydros & Runabouts up to and including more recent BAD race boats. Spirited demos and more. Refer [www.goolwaquaticclub.com.au](http://www.goolwaquaticclub.com.au) for further details.
- Yarrawonga Rod run - April 29th & 30th May 1st 2016. Organised by the Satellite City Street Rods Club. Contact 0417524049 Steve or 0408218181 the other Steve.
- Nagambie – TBA

### October 2015

- CAWPBA Annual National Regatta. Oct 29th & 30th. Lake Talbot, Narranderra, NSW. Contact Alan on 0403 838 193 or Greg on 0408 937 029 for details.

***Please check for confirmation  
of dates and venues***

***Club Caps are now available, plain  
style or with red trim.  
Also, there are a few club calendars  
still available.***

**Refer the website for details at:**

**[http://www.cawpba.com/CAWPBA/  
for%20sale.htm](http://www.cawpba.com/CAWPBA/for%20sale.htm)**

***Quote for Today***

***" What we have to learn to do,  
we learn by doing"***

***Aristotle***

## Club Contact Details

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### Membership Update:

Vic	29	NT	1
NSW	18	Tas	3
Qld	3	SA	9
WA	3	USA	1
ACT	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>